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**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-24 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 25 is amended. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-24 (Cancelled.)

Claim 25. (Currently amended.) A ~~non-naturally occurring~~ variant of a parent alpha-amylase, said variant comprising a substitution of a K at an amino acid position selected from the group consisting of 118, 320 and 458 (using SEQ ID NO:12 for numbering), wherein the variant has alpha-amylase activity, and wherein the variant has at least 90% homology to SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 26. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, comprising an alteration of R118K.

Claim 27. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, comprising an alteration of R320K.

Claim 28. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, comprising an alteration of R458K.

Claim 29. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, comprising an alteration of R118K, R320K and R458K.

Claim 30. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, wherein the parent alpha-amylase is *Bacillus sp.* DSMZ no. 12649 alpha-amylase.

Claims 31-49 (Cancelled.)

Claim 50. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, wherein the variant has at least 95% homology with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 51-56. (Cancelled.)

Claim 57. (Previously presented.) The variant of claim 25, wherein the variant has at least 97% homology with an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:12.

Claim 58. (Cancelled.)